

This community affirms and promotes the Unitarian Universalist principles:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregations
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- The goal of a world community with peace, liberty and justice for all
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

### **Announcements (Cont'd.)**

**Choir is back!** Last rehearsal for our annual performance year kickoff at Ingathering will be held at 9am on September 10. The choir rehearses at 9am most Sundays between September 10 and late June, with performances at services twice per month. Membership in the choir is always open, with no audition or commitment required; choristers attend rehearsals as they are able, and perform when they feel comfortable. There are no weeknight rehearsals. To be placed on the email list for choir, contact music director Kristen Tosh-Morelli: [music@uusmc.org](mailto:music@uusmc.org). *The choir is always happy to welcome and include new members!*

**Solar Panel Update** At an August 13 congregational discussion, members unanimously supported moving forward with the installation of solar panels. The net cost to the church will be \$20,203, and we need to raise funds of at least \$10,203 to make the project financially feasible. We already have more than \$7000 in pledges toward that goal! If you'd like to make a pledge to support this project, contact Matt Doty [mattdoty@gmail.com](mailto:mattdoty@gmail.com) or Debby Damiani [administrator@uusmc.org](mailto:administrator@uusmc.org).

**Adult Spiritual Growth and Development Opportunities!** See today's insert for more information.

### **Upcoming events**

**Listening to Our Lives**, first session Wednesday, September 6

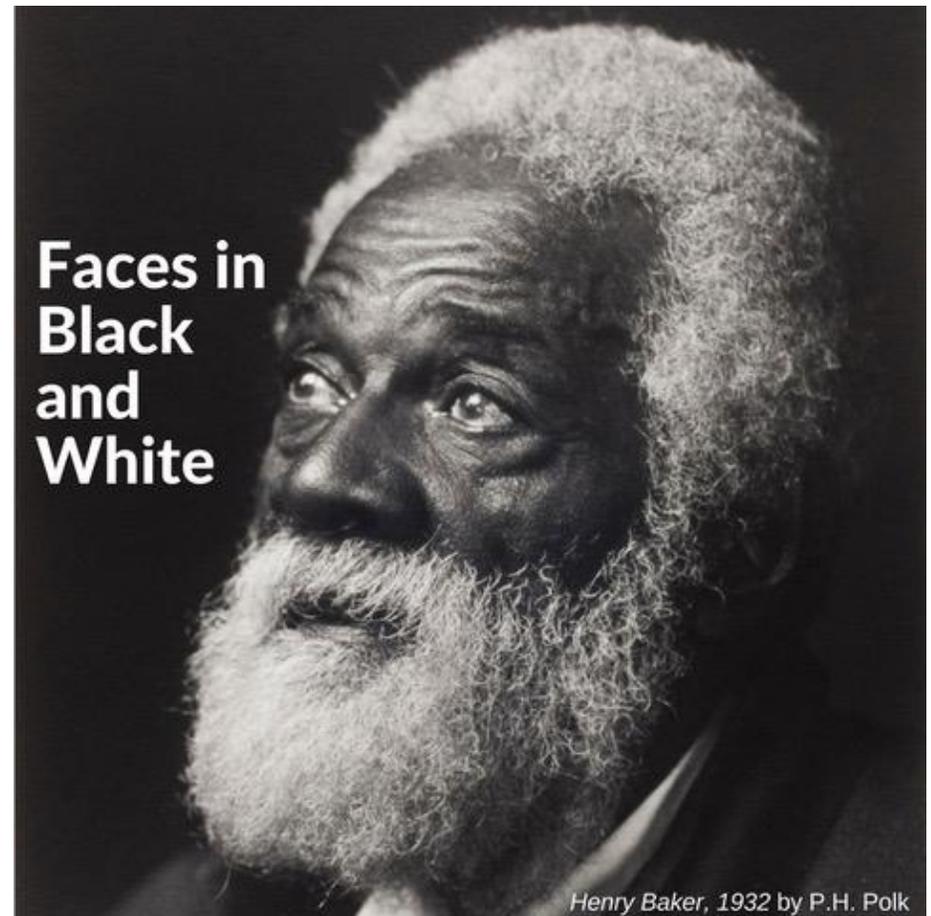
**Ingathering**, Sunday, September 10

**Shared Pulpit Workshop**, first session Saturday, September 16

**Family Fun Night**, Friday, September 22

### **Mill Creek Professional Staff**

Rev. Gregory S. Pelley, Minister [minister@uusmc.org](mailto:minister@uusmc.org)  
>>Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, 9 am – 1 pm, and by appointment  
Debra Damiani, Office Administrator [administrator@uusmc.org](mailto:administrator@uusmc.org)  
>>Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 am – 1 pm  
Kristen Tosh-Morelli, Music Director [music@uusmc.org](mailto:music@uusmc.org)



**August 27, 2017**  
**Stephen Petersen**

*We are a community that invites you to awaken to love.*

Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek  
A Welcoming Congregation  
302-369-2712  
[www.uusmc.org](http://www.uusmc.org)

**Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek**  
**Rev. Gregory S. Pelley, Minister**  
 ~ Order of Service ~  
**August 27, 2017**

♥ Please silence cell phones, and hold applause until the end of service.

Welcome & Announcements      Diana Saunders, Worship Associate

Prelude

Chalice Lighting

Response:

*We gather this hour as people of faith, with joys and sorrows, gifts and needs. We light this beacon of hope, sign of our quest for truth and meaning, in celebration of the life we share together.*

Congregational Greeting      Stephen Petersen

Story For All Ages      Stephen Petersen

Children to Religious Education – Go Now in Peace      #413

Covenant

*Sacred is this place of acceptance, this home for the spirit. Here, all are welcome, with all our differences, who come in peace and with an open heart. We enter in celebration, to learn, to share, and to grow together in our Unitarian Universalist faith. Blessed be this gathering.*

\*Hymn      Love Will Guide Us      #131

Joys and Sorrows

Centering Hymn      Spirit of Life      #123

Meditation

Offering

Reading      Faces by Ted Joans

Sermon      Faces in Black and White      Stephen Petersen

Postlude

**\*Unison Benediction**

*May we go from here with Love in our hearts,  
 Hope in our minds, Help in our hands,  
 To live our Principles and give of our gifts,  
 For those whose lives we touch, whose lives touch ours.*

\* Stand as you are able.

**Welcome, visitors and guests.** We invite you to fill out a contact information card, and hope you'll stay with us after the service for coffee, tea, & conversation. We welcome you to all meetings and social activities. To discuss membership, please contact Maggie McLaughlin, [mmclaughlin13123@gmail.com](mailto:mmclaughlin13123@gmail.com), Helen Springer, [helenspringer@icloud.com](mailto:helenspringer@icloud.com), Eileen Selph, [caldwelleileen@hotmail.com](mailto:caldwelleileen@hotmail.com), or our minister, Rev. Gregory S. Pelley, [minister@uusmc.org](mailto:minister@uusmc.org). We hope you have found the service meaningful and our fellowship warm, and that you will be with us again.

**Meet our guest speaker, Stephen Petersen.** Stephen, a longtime co-chair of the Sunday Services Committee, is an art historian, critical writer, and curator. His exhibit "Faces in Black and White: Photography and Identity," featuring the work of 20 photographers exploring the human face as a site of history, struggle, and inspiration, will be on view at the Mechanical Hall Gallery at the University of Delaware from September 6 to December 8.

**Today's music** is performed by Tristan Leung. Tristan is an undergrad student from Wilmington, DE, studying Music Education (Instrumental) with a concentration in piano at the University of Delaware. He is involved with the school's Marching Band, Wind Ensemble, the Xi Mu chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Music Fraternity.

**Today's flowers** are given this morning by Linda Lucero in loving memory of her husband Allan Thompson who passed away five years ago on August 27, 2012.

**Children's Religious Education** We've found at least one Monarch caterpillar and we will be looking for more in our meadow today. Let us know if you want to adopt! Our next Family Fun Night is Friday evening, September 22, 6:30 PM. Come out and help us celebrate the arrival of autumn with a campfire!

**Share Our Plate** For the months of July & August we'll be donating half of our undesignated plate offerings to **Arts Holding Hands and Hearts (AHHAH)** in West Chester, PA. AHHAH is an expressive arts and literacy based program, serving disadvantaged youth and their families.

**-- ANNOUNCEMENTS --**

**Ingathering, Sunday, September 10.** Join us for our annual Ingathering Celebration with Rev. Greg. Everyone is invited to bring a small amount of water to pour into the common bowl – symbolic water from your life – be it from your kitchen tap, garden hose or your favorite stream. This will be a multigenerational service featuring the return of our beloved choir, directed by Kristen Tosh-Morelli. Afterward we'll enjoy fellowship over a delicious potluck lunch. Please bring a dish to share!

## Shared Pulpit Workshop

You have a story. Each of our stories is part of a larger narrative of being human in this world, in this time. One of the most powerful spiritual practices we have is in the sharing of our stories and reflecting on the ways those stories awaken us to love, illuminate our humanity, connect us to the holy and ineffable - and common - experience of life.

We invite you to join Rev. Greg for a **Shared Pulpit Workshop**, which will guide you in developing your story into a sermon and worship experience that you can share with the congregation.

Using a series of small group meetings, this program aims to deepen connection and trust among you — the seeking minds and caring hearts of Mill Creek. The workshop contains advice, tools, and a process designed to equip you to be even more skilled, confident leaders (because anyone brave and curious enough to share their journey publicly with a congregation is, in fact, a leader). Along the way, you'll discover your authentic voice by writing a sermon to deliver to the congregation.

This program is pulpit-and-pew tested, producing dozens of graduates who report that it transformed their relationship to their congregation and to Unitarian Universalism. As a participant, you don't need to think of yourself as a writer. You don't have to know what you want to say. You don't even need to be a visible leader in your congregation. As you had five to seven others navigate your way through the eight sessions — under the guidance of Rev. Greg - you are invited to do three things:

- commit your time and energy to the program — including doing the required writing between sessions
- create and uphold a group covenant so that those in your group can risk being vulnerable
- trust that the first two steps will reveal your voice and truth.

The workshop will meet on Saturdays from 9:00 - noon, **beginning September 16**. We will then meet approximately every three - four weeks: October 7, October 28, November 18, December 2, January 6, February 3, and February 10.

Contact Rev. Greg ([minister@uusmc.org](mailto:minister@uusmc.org)) to sign up.

## Listening to Our Lives

This class is designed for those who wish to engage seriously and open-heartedly with the perennial religious topics such as: inspiration, God, community, suffering, death, spiritual practice, living our gifts, and salvation.

Rev. Greg will lead the group meeting on **Wednesday evenings** from **7:00 - 9:00 pm** beginning **September 6 - October 25**, and completes on **November 15**. Enrollment is limited to a minimum of 8, maximum of 12 participants who commit to attending all nine sessions.

Please contact Rev. Greg to sign up, or if you have questions: [minister@uusmc.org](mailto:minister@uusmc.org).

Read what past participants have said about this class:

*"I signed up for the Listening to our Lives class to do something about the creeping emptiness of retirement and the loss of a clear purpose which my mother's care provided. The class created a safe and trusting space for me to listen to my inner voice, in the quietness of a beloved community. It was designed to slip us into deeper inner work with the help of carefully selected readings, homework and class discussions. I still reach out to the class notes I made and the reading materials as I continue this very rewarding work."*

*"Attending this class has been the most impactful thing I've done since joining UUSMC 25+ years ago. The self-reflection, discussion, and sharing within our group has helped me progress in leaps and bounds on my spiritual journey. I have a deeper sense of the "why" of church for me and a beloved community which I cherish."*